



New Haven Democracy Fund

"To ensure that all the citizens of New Haven have a fair and meaningful opportunity to participate in the election of mayor."
New Haven Code of General Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article XI, §2-321 • Established in 2007 • democracyfund@newhavenct.net



DEMOCRACY FUND BOARD MEETING

6:00 pm Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

New Haven Democracy Fund Board:

Sergio Rodriguez, Chair

Members: Aaron Goode, James O'Connell, William Wynn, James Bhandary-Alexander

Democracy Fund Administrator: Alyson Heimer

Join the Meeting from anywhere using Zoom!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85112166625>

Meeting ID: 851 1216 6625

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order & Attendance. Sergio Rodriguez and William Wynn were absent, for excused reasons (religious holiday and health). James O'Connell served as chair. Meeting called to order at 6:24 pm.
2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes August 25, 2021. 3-0-0.
3. Public Comment - none
4. Report from the Chair
 - a. It was a coincidence that Mr. O'Connell chaired this meeting, as the initial request for the change in the Debate timing originated from O'Connell via email communication. Rationale for debate rescheduling for October 19 from October 26 was that this will give more time for voters to make up their mind before the election. Moving the debate to the 19th allows for two full weeks of consideration and makes enough time for those who are voting absentee to hear the discussion before casting their ballots. The Board agreed with this proposal and both campaigns have confirmed that the debate will be on October 19 at 7pm at Co-Op highschool. It will be moderated by Paul Bass of the New Haven Independent, with questions from members of other news outlets.

5. Administrator's Report

a. Contested General Election Update

- i. Democracy Fund Debate: (tentatively) October 19, 2021 at Co-Op High School Auditorium. Total costs for the event were quoted at \$1,416.

Custodian (\$48/ hour for 4-hour minimum) (Total=\$192)

Event Manager and Sound Tech (\$50/hour 4 for 4 hour minimum) (Total=\$200)

Energy Surcharge (\$40/hour for 3.5 hours) (Total=\$140)

Mainstage (Room Rate \$300) (Total=\$300)

Security (\$96/hour for 4-hour minimum) (Total=\$384)

House Management (\$25/hour for 4 hours 2 people) \$200 (Total= \$200)

Total=\$1,416 (Total=\$1,416)

Event outline: Tuesday, October 19 OR October 26, 2021, Set up 6-7pm o Event 7-9pm o Exit: 9:30 pm

Total Hours= 4

The Board requested that the administrator get a revised quote from the venue to include two staffers to be at the door to check vaccination cards and test results of the general public before they enter. The Board expressed their appreciation for this required work and set a budget for \$100 for additional event staffing.

b. Presentation of John Carlson's submission for NHDF Grant approval and qualifying contributions

- i. Candidate John Carlson received approval for the New Haven Democracy Fund Grant after careful review of his grant request. The grant of \$20,000 will be disbursed once the Finance Department books reopen at the completion of the Annual Audit on Friday. Regular business resumes for the department on Monday, September 20. The check will be issued at that time, and available for pick up on Friday.
- ii. Matching funds in the total amount of \$9,148 have also been approved. This is the 2-to-1 match for the first 229 names reviewed and approved by the Fund Administrator.

c. SEEC update - eCris access

- i. Ensuring ease of campaign financial filings is one of the responsibilities of the Administrator during a campaign. The Carlson campaign had been told they could not have access to the electronic Campaign Reporting Information System (eCris) provided by the State Election Enforcement Commission when they called the candidate info line. This was a mistake. They have been given access to eCris and request was made to the SEEC that New Haven be added to the list of approved cities solely for the primary and general elections for Mayor of the City of New Haven in accordance with the New Haven Democracy Fund municipal ordinance. This would reduce miscommunication in the future.

- d. In-person meetings to resume in October! Our meeting will be held in Mayor's Conference Room Two at 6:00pm on Wednesday October 20, 2021.

6. New Business

A supplemental meeting will be scheduled for the last week of September to ensure the planning for the Debate is moving forward. Administrator Heimer will send out an email to find a time that works for all of the Board Members.